

STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554

(540) 658-6629
Fax (540) 658-6041

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Contact: Valerie Cottongim, 540/658-6629
Doug Schuch, 540/658-6661

Stafford County School Division Makes Adequate Yearly Progress, Reports Individual School Results

Stafford, VA-- Stafford County Public Schools has received 2006-2007 preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress results from the Virginia Department of Education. These results, which are based on the Virginia Standards of Learning test performance from the 2005-06 school year, indicate Stafford County Public Schools has made Adequate Yearly Progress as a school division by meeting or exceeding all 29 of the required federal benchmarks for school divisions.

Additionally, the Virginia Department of Education has indicated that 15 of the county's schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress by meeting or exceeding all 29 of the required federal benchmarks for schools. These schools include Brooke Point High School, Colonial Forge High School, Falmouth Elementary School, Ferry Farm Elementary School, Garrisonville Elementary School, Grafton Village Elementary School, Hampton Oaks Elementary School, Hartwood Elementary School, Margaret Brent Elementary School, Moncure Elementary School, North Stafford High School, Park Ridge Elementary School, Rockhill Elementary School, Rocky Run Elementary School, and Widewater Elementary

School.

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The Virginia Department of Education has also indicated that 9 of our schools met or exceeded most of the 29 federal benchmarks for schools but did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. The schools that met or exceeded 28 of 29 benchmarks are A.G. Wright Middle School, H. H. Poole Middle School, and Stafford Middle School. The schools that met or exceeded 27 of 29 benchmarks are Drew Middle School, Gayle Middle School, and Stafford Elementary School. Conway Elementary School met or exceeded 26 of 29 benchmarks. The schools that met or exceeded 25 of 29 benchmarks are Mountain View High School and Thompson Middle School.

The Virginia Department of Education is still in the process of reviewing testing records from Stafford High School, Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School and Winding Creek Elementary School. Therefore, the Adequate Yearly Progress ratings for these schools are "To Be Determined." Our new schools, Anthony Burns Elementary School and Dixon-Smith Middle School, do not receive an Adequate Yearly Progress rating for 2006-07, as No Child Left Behind does not assign a rating to schools in their first year.

These preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress results are subject to change until finalized by the Virginia Department of Education over the next several weeks. The No Child Left Behind law requires that specific sanctions be imposed on schools that receive certain federal funds and do not make Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years in the same content area. These preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress results do not require that Stafford County Public Schools impose any new sanctions at any of our schools.

Rocky Run Elementary School, which made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2006-07, will continue to offer School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services during 2006-07, because the No Child Left Behind Law also requires that schools, which have previously

received sanctions, need to make Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years before those sanctions are removed. “We applaud Ms. Jo Ann Baker, principal of Rocky Run Elementary School, and her staff and students for their dedication in achieving Adequate Yearly Progress during the past school year and their commitment to making continuous improvement in the years to come,” stated Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Andrea Bengier.

All of Stafford’s middle schools did not experience as much success with making Adequate Yearly Progress standards for 2006-07 as they have demonstrated in past years. As the school division reviews the performance of our middle schools against the federal Adequate Yearly Progress standards, it is important to realize that the 2006-07 standard for middle schools is completely different than in any previous year, because of the addition of SOL testing in Reading and Math for students in grades 6 and 7. This means that our middle schools, which serve students in grades 6, 7, and 8, are now testing and being held accountable for all students at every grade level, something that does not happen at the elementary or the high school levels. Doug Schuch, Executive Director of Accountability for Stafford County Public Schools, expressed, “We believe that this level of accountability, which is required under the No Child Left Behind law, will greatly assist our middle schools in identifying their strengths, as well as areas that require improvement in order to meet the learning needs of all students, and we are confident that our middle schools will continue to meet these challenges in future years.

Adequate Yearly Progress is the federal standard by which schools and school divisions are rated under the No Child Left Behind law. However, public schools in Virginia are also annually given accreditation ratings by the state, which are also based on SOL test scores

from the previous school year. Though the Virginia Department of Education has not yet released their 2006-07 preliminary accreditation ratings, we are encouraged by the 2005-06 SOL test results that we have analyzed locally, and we are confident that our schools will continue to perform admirably in earning accreditation as they have in previous years.

“Stafford County Public Schools are pleased that the school division has made Adequate Yearly Progress. However, we also recognize that we must continue to work diligently in order to meet the needs of all of our students,” said Interim Superintendent Dr. André Nougaret.

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Stafford County Public Schools
2006-07 Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Summary
August 31, 2006

School	Preliminary AYP Status	AYP Benchmarks Met
Brooke Point High School	Made AYP	29
Colonial Forge High School	Made AYP	29
Falmouth Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Ferry Farm Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Garrisonville Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Grafton Village Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Hampton Oaks Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Hartwood Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Margaret Brent Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Moncure Elementary School	Made AYP	29
North Stafford High School	Made AYP	29
Park Ridge Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Rockhill Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Rocky Run Elementary School	Made AYP	29
Widewater Elementary School	Made AYP	29
A.G. Wright Middle School	Did Not Make AYP	28
H.H. Poole Middle School	Did Not Make AYP	28
Stafford Middle School	Did Not Make AYP	28
Stafford High School	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Drew Middle School	Did Not Make AYP	27
Gayle Middle School	Did Not Make AYP	27
Stafford Elementary School	Did Not Make AYP	27
Conway Elementary School	Did Not Make AYP	26
Mountain View High School	Did Not Make AYP	25
Thompson Middle School	Did Not Make AYP	25
Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Winding Creek Elementary School	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

Source: Virginia Department of Education
Produced by D. Schuch, SCPS Dept. of Accountability

Adequate Yearly Progress Explanation

August 31, 2006

Public schools and school divisions in Virginia are annually assessed by the Adequate Yearly Progress standard of the No Child Left Behind law. In order to make Adequate Yearly Progress, a school or school division must meet 29 individual benchmarks as defined by No Child Left Behind. Of these 29 benchmarks, 28 relate to student participation and performance on state reading and mathematics tests from the previous school year. Additionally schools must meet or exceed the "Other Academic Indicator" which is defined as graduation rate at the high school level and can be either state science test performance or attendance rate at the middle and elementary school levels.

For each Adequate Yearly Progress benchmark, a school or school division is rated against an annual measurable objective (AMO). For the 2005-06 school year the AMO for Reading was 69%, while the AMO for Math was 67%. Under the No Child Left Behind law, these AMOs will continue to increase each year until ultimately reaching 100% in 2013-14.

Schools or school divisions utilize the higher of the 2005-06 Standards of Learning test results or the cumulative three-year Standards of Learning test result average (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06) for each reporting category, in accordance with No Child Left Behind scoring and reporting guidelines. A school or school division may also make Adequate Yearly Progress in any category if the failure rate in that category decreased by 10% from the previous school year. This provision is known as "safe harbor."

The calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress for 2006-07 for elementary schools and middle schools is different than it has been over the past several years due to the addition of Reading and Math tests for students in grades 4, 6, and 7, during the 2005-06 school year. Under the No Child Left Behind law, elementary schools and middle schools will use all Reading and Math tests administered at their schools to determine Adequate Yearly Progress participation rates and their 2005-06 performance rates. However, No Child Left Behind also stipulates that elementary schools and middle schools will only use Grade 3, Grade 5, Grade 8, and End of Course Reading and Math Standards of Learning tests to determine the cumulative three-year Standards of Learning test result average and the safe harbor calculation.

The information provided today represents "preliminary" Adequate Yearly Progress results for Stafford County Public Schools and may change over the next several weeks after testing records are carefully reviewed for accuracy by schools, the school division, and the Virginia Department of Education. Once any potential changes or updates are implemented, the Virginia Department of Education will certify Adequate Yearly Progress results as "final."

Produced by D. Schuch, SCPS Dept. of Accountability